

NOTABLE PLANTS OF RATTLESNAKE MOUNTAIN, PORTER, MAINE

Rattlesnake Mountain (1179 feet) lies two and a half miles north of Porter Village, in southern Oxford County, and two miles east of the New Hampshire border. The mountain is aptly named, for in a history of that town written by Moulton in 1879 he states that in the spring of 1820, eleven rattlesnakes were killed in about one hour. Moulton then adds that the reptile is apparently now extinct in the town since none has been seen for many years.

On June 8, 1974, C. Paul Wight of Old Orchard Beach and I visited this mountain as we had been impressed by some prominent ledges on its southern side, which we observed from a road. The southern slope of Rattlesnake Mountain is mostly a well developed hardwood forest; some stone walls, leading partly up the mountain, indicate earlier fields and pastures. On the moist ledges above the wooded slope we discovered *Ranunculus fascicularis* Muhl. growing abundantly. This locale sets a new range limit for this species. The farthest north it had been recorded prior to this discovery was at Nottingham, New Hampshire, where Dr. Albion Hodgdon observed the species. On the higher ledges *Arabis missouriensis* Greene grew sparingly.

Subsequent trips were made independently by Christopher Campbell. He and I also visited the site together. On one such trip in the summer of 1974 he discovered *Vitis aestivalis* var. *argentifolia* (Munson) Fern., which was a new record for the state.

Other plants found were: *Selaginella rupestris* (L.) Spring, *Woodsia obtusa* (Spreng.) Torr., *Asplenium Trichomanes* L., *Hystrix patula* Moench, *Oryzopsis racemosa* (Muhl.) Fern., *Silene Antirrhina* f. *Deaneana* Fern., *Hepatica americana* (DC.) Ker, *Cerastium arvense* L., *Ceanothus americanus* L., *Geranium Bicknellii* Britt., *G. carolinianum* L., *G. Robertianum* L., *Epilobium ciliatum* Raf., *Specularia perfoliata* (L.) DC., *Gerardia flava* L., and *Antennaria plantaginifolia* (L.) Hook.

Specimens have been deposited at the herbarium of the University of Maine.

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